

switching mechanism protecting said load from overtemperature and overcurrent, respectively, a cavity which is provided in said housing part and in which said switching mechanism is placed, a first and a second countercontact being provided in said cavity, said first countercontact being electrically connected to said load and said second countercontact being electrically connected to said external terminal, said cavity being configured to receive said housingless switching mechanism such that said switching mechanism when being below its response temperature is in direct electrical contact with said first and second countercontacts for electrically interconnecting said first and second countercontact with each other, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit comprising a bimetallic element and a movable contact element that coacts with one of said two countercontacts, and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on said contact element that coacts with the other of said two countercontacts, said spring element being configured as a spring tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element and at its second end is joined to a first end of said bimetallic element, which at its free end carried said movable contact element.

21. (New) A device as in Claim 20, wherein a cover is provided that sealingly closes off said cavity after said switching mechanism has been set in place.

22. (New) A device as in Claim 21, wherein said cover is attached to said device in articulated fashion.

23. (New) A device as in Claim 20, wherein the bimetallic element is configured as a bimetallic tongue that at its first end is attached to said guide element and at its free end carries said movable contact element.

24. (New) A device as in Claim 20, wherein said spring element has a retaining extension piece that is attached to said guide element.

25. (New) A device, comprising an electrical load, a housing part, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism protecting said load from overtemperature and overcurrent, respectively, a cavity which is provided in said housing part and in which said switching mechanism is placed, a cover that sealingly closes off the cavity after said switching mechanism has been set in place, a first and a second countercontact wherein one of the two countercontacts is arranged on the cover and the other countercontact is provided in said cavity, said first countercontact being electrically connected to said load and said second countercontact being electrically connected to said external terminal, said cavity being configured to receive said housingless switching mechanism such that said switching mechanism when being below its response temperature is in direct electrical contact with said first and second countercontacts for electrically interconnecting said first and second countercontact with each other, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit comprising a bimetallic element and a movable contact element that coacts with one of said two countercontacts, and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on said contact element that coacts with the other of said two countercontacts, said spring element being configured as a spring tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element and at its second end is joined to a first end of said bimetallic element, which at its free end carries said movable contact element.

26. (New) A device as in Claim 25, wherein said cover is attached to said device in articulated fashion.

27. (New) A device as in Claim 25, wherein said second countercontact is arranged on said cover.

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